

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A fluid dispenser comprising:

a main dispenser body;

a fluid reservoir within the main dispenser body;

a substantially rigid tip portion provided on the main dispenser body and having a nib at a distal end thereof;

a cap selectively engageable with the substantially rigid tip portion;

the cap movable between a dispensing position and a non-dispensing position, said fluid reservoir being passively pressurized while the cap is in the dispensing position.

2. The fluid dispenser of claim 1, wherein the cap in the dispensing position facilitates application of a compressive force by a force member on the fluid reservoir, and wherein the cap in the non-dispensing position prevents the force member from applying said compressive force.

3. The fluid dispenser of claim 1, further comprising an interface operable to manually increase compression of the fluid reservoir.

4. The fluid dispenser of claim 2, wherein the force member comprises a spring, and wherein disengagement of the cap from the substantially rigid tip portion facilitates the spring imparting the compressive force to the fluid reservoir.

5. The fluid dispenser of claim 4, wherein the main dispenser body comprises a compressible wall that defines the fluid reservoir, and wherein the compressive force imparted by the spring is applied to the compressible wall, thereby to pressurize the fluid.

6. The fluid dispenser of claim 4, wherein the spring is included as a portion of the cap.
7. The fluid dispenser of claim 4, wherein the spring is in selective engagement with the substantially rigid tip portion such that upon engagement therewith, the spring is prevented from imparting the compressive force to the fluid reservoir.
8. The fluid dispenser of claim 4, further comprising an interface associated with the fluid reservoir, said interface being engageable by an operator to actively increase flow of the fluid from the dispenser.
9. The fluid dispenser of claim 2, wherein the force member comprises at least a portion of the cap that engages the fluid reservoir when the cap is in the dispensing position.
10. The fluid dispenser of claim 9, in which main dispenser body defines the fluid reservoir.
11. The fluid dispenser of claim 9, in which a compressible receptacle is disposed within the main dispenser body and defines the fluid reservoir.
12. The fluid dispenser of claim 1, wherein the force member comprises a proximate cap portion engaging a collapsible portion of the fluid reservoir.
13. The fluid dispenser of claim 1, in which the fluid reservoir has an uncompressed volume when the cap is in the non-dispensing position and a compressed volume less than the uncompressed volume when the cap is in the dispensing position, wherein a difference between the uncompressed and compressed volumes defines a displacement volume.

14. The fluid dispenser of claim 13, in which the displacement volume is at least approximately 1% and no greater than approximately 25% of the uncompressed volume of the fluid reservoir.

15. The fluid dispenser of claim 13, in which the displacement volume is at least approximately 3% and no greater than approximately 16% of the uncompressed volume of the fluid reservoir.

16. The fluid dispenser of claim 1, further comprising a fluid flow control member disposed between the fluid reservoir and the nib.

17. The fluid dispenser of claim 16, in which the fluid flow control member comprises a valve.

18. A fluid dispenser comprising:

- a main dispenser body comprising a resilient material;
- a cap in movable communication with the main dispenser body between a first dispensing position and a second non-dispensing position;
- a fluid reservoir enclosed by the main dispenser body;
- a substantially rigid tip portion provided at a distal end of the main dispenser body;
- a nib provided in the tip portion and in communication with the fluid reservoir;
- a spring disposed on the exterior of the main dispenser body, said spring being selectively engageable with the substantially rigid tip portion and, when disengaged from the substantially rigid tip portion, said spring imparting a compressive force to the main dispenser body, whereby the fluid reservoir enclosed therein is pressurized.

19. The fluid dispenser of claim 18, in which the fluid reservoir has an uncompressed volume when the cap is in the non-dispensing position and a compressed

volume less than the uncompressed volume when the cap is in the dispensing position, wherein a difference between the uncompressed and compressed volumes defines a displacement volume.

20. The fluid dispenser of claim 19, in which the displacement volume is at least approximately 1% and no greater than approximately 25% of the uncompressed volume of the fluid reservoir.

21. The fluid dispenser of claim 19, in which the displacement volume is at least approximately 3% and no greater than approximately 16% of the uncompressed volume of the fluid reservoir.

22. The fluid dispenser of claim 18, further comprising a fluid flow control member disposed between the fluid reservoir and the nib.

23. The fluid dispenser of claim 22, in which the fluid flow control member comprises a valve.

24. A fluid dispenser comprising:

- a main dispenser body made of a compressible material, and including a pair of opposing recesses in an outside thereof;
- a fluid reservoir enclosed in the main dispenser body;
- a substantially rigid tip provided on a distal end of the main dispenser body;
- a generally U-shaped cap having first and second opposing legs, each of said legs having a ring projecting inwardly therefrom, said rings being rotatably received in the recesses;
- a spring clip overlying the cap, said spring clip being generally U-shaped and having first and second legs biased toward one another;

said cap and overlying spring clip being rotatable relative to the main dispenser body between a closed position in which the first and second legs of the spring clip are forced apart from one another by the presence of said substantially rigid tip, thereby impeding the first and second legs of the spring from compressing the main dispenser body, and an open position, wherein the first and second legs of the spring cause the first and second legs of the cap to compress the main dispenser body, thereby pressurizing said fluid in said fluid reservoir.

25. The fluid dispenser of claim 24, in which the fluid reservoir has an uncompressed volume when the cap is in the non-dispensing position and a compressed volume less than the uncompressed volume when the cap is in the dispensing position, wherein a difference between the uncompressed and compressed volumes defines a displacement volume.

26. The fluid dispenser of claim 25, in which the displacement volume is at least approximately 1% and no greater than approximately 25% of the uncompressed volume of the fluid reservoir.

27. The fluid dispenser of claim 25, in which the displacement volume is at least approximately 3% and no greater than approximately 16% of the uncompressed volume of the fluid reservoir.

28. The fluid dispenser of claim 24, further comprising a fluid flow control member disposed between the fluid reservoir and the nib.

29. The fluid dispenser of claim 28, in which the fluid flow control member comprises a valve.

30. The fluid dispenser of claim 24, further comprising an interface on an exterior of the cap, said interface being operable to manually increase compression of the main dispenser body.

31. The fluid dispenser of claim 24, further comprising one or more locking tabs extending from each of the rings of the cap, and one or more complementary locking recesses extending from the opposing recesses in the main dispenser body, at least one of said one or more locking tabs and at least one of said one or more locking recesses arranged to selectively and releasably lock the cap in the closed position.

32. The fluid dispenser of claim 24, wherein another of said one or more locking tabs and another of said one or more locking recesses are further arranged to selectively and releasably lock the cap in the open position.

33. The fluid dispenser of claim 24, wherein the cap includes a recessed region on an outside surface thereof, and said spring clip being securely received within the recessed region.